



Please Join Us!

## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

**When:** Saturday, July 19, 2008 11:00 am

**Where:** Cedarville or Hessel, Les Cheneaux Area, Mackinac County

The efforts of the many individuals that help manage our preserves and maintain our trails are greatly appreciated. As a small token of our gratitude, we will again be hosting a volunteer appreciation luncheon. This year we will be meeting in the Upper Peninsula, in the beautiful Les Cheneaux area (about thirty miles northeast of St. Ignace.) The exact location of the gathering is yet to be determined. We do know that the day will provide an opportunity to experience the beauty and learn more about the Les Cheneaux area while dining with your fellow land stewards and getting updated on LTC Stewardship topics. Your invitation with more details will be mailed next month. We hope you can join us.

## Volunteer Stewardship Work Days for 2008

Help us spread the word to others who may want to work on a local preserve! For all volunteer work days, please wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves and drinking water. For some of the work days, we welcome the use of extra tools. Additional work days at the Goodhart, McCune, and Birge Nature Preserves are still being planned. Check the Conservancy website at [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) for more information later this spring and summer, or give us a call. To sign up, or for more information, please call our office at 231-347-0991.

**Saturday May 17, 2008**

**Ray Johnston Nature Preserve  
Springvale Township, Emmet County**

Site cleanup, plantings, trail construction, parking area fence construction, and more. This will be a big work blitz, as part of the AmeriCorps "One Hundred Hours of Power." Last year's AmeriCorps work day at the Ransom Preserve accomplished great things!

**Wednesday May 28, 2008**

**Meadowgate Nature Preserve  
Little Traverse Township, Emmet County**

Pull invasive garlic mustard while finding out about our extensive plans to restore the meadows at this preserve.

**Thursday June 26 and Friday June 27, 2008**

**Vermilion Point Nature Preserve  
Whitefish Township, Chippewa County**

Pull spotted knapweed, one of the only invasive plants at this otherwise remote and pristine preserve.

### Learn to Identify Invasive Plants

Wednesday July 9, 2008 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Mackinaw City area

Bring sack lunch, note pad, and hand lens

Improve your skills as a Preserve Monitor! Non-native invasive plants are one of the biggest threats to the health of our natural ecosystems. Attend this one-day field trip and learn to identify some of the invasive species that are found in Little Traverse Conservancy's service area. By learning these plants and letting LTC's stewardship staff know where you've seen them, you can help us to better manage our nature preserves. Join Dr. Ed Voss, author of the three-volume Michigan Flora, for an insightful tour of dumps, gravel pits, construction sites, roadsides, and other places in the Straits of Mackinac region where many plants of foreign origin live - including noxious invasive species. Limited to 20, so please call 231.347.0991 to register.



## Major Nature Preserve Projects 2008

### Charlevoix County

- Driggers: Remove large barn and restore site. Cleanup and restoration in other areas, as well as formalization of trail system and parking area.
- Jordan River: Continue cleanup and restoration started in '07 and install gate and logo sign.
- Little Sand Bay: Finishing touches on boardwalk replacement project and begin restoration of gravel pit area.
- Ransom: Install interpretive signs, additional fencing and gate.
- Rogers Family: Create parking area, install trail map signs and logo sign.

### Cheboygan County

- Andreae: Paint bridge and replace railing. Landscaping around cabin.
- Gauthier: Formalize trail(s), investigate improvement of kayak landing at road end.
- O'Neil, Wendy: Cleanup and resolve dumping and vehicle issues.
- Seven Springs: Improve signs and boardwalk, consider adding a new short connector trail.

### Chippewa County

- Bailey-Lagerstrom: Formalize trail spurs to shore.
- Round Island Point: Continue to work on access issues on the east side of the preserve.
- Vermilion: On-going building maintenance, spotted knapweed control, cleanup, other improvements.
- Williams: Finish designing trail system and parking area, construct late in the season.

### Emmet County

- Goodhart: Finish trails west of Church Road, add additional ORV and snowmobile barriers if needed.
- Johnston, Ray: Site cleanup, plantings, trail construction, parking area fence construction.
- Kreg: Check for encroachments, mark boundaries, straighten logo sign.
- McCune: Remove young scotch pines, cleanup southwest corner of the preserve, and address vehicle use and dumping.

### Mackinac County

- Badgley: Resolve boundary issues.
- Derby: Create management plan.
- Leopold, Aldo: Continue marking boundaries and developing management plan for this island preserve.
- Birge: Trail construction

## 2008 Stew Crew



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### Nature Preserve Statistics

as of April, 2008

County	#	Acres
Charlevoix	41	1,604
Cheboygan	28	1,428
Chippewa	20	2,486
Emmet	86	2,966
Mackinac	21	2,563
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>11,047</b>

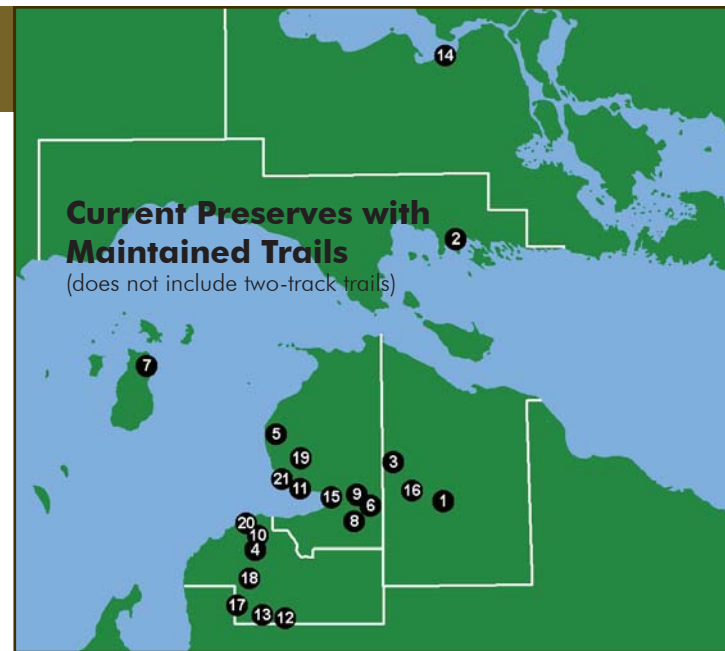
## Trails On LTC Preserves

HIKING AND OTHER NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL USAGE IS very popular in the United States. According to recent statistics, 36.8 million people hiked in 2002. Michigan has nearly 700 non-motorized trail systems totaling thousands of miles. The ultimate reason to hike is for personal enjoyment, but other reasons include getting outdoors, physical fitness, and emotional health benefits.

Little Traverse Conservancy has made establishing trails on preserves a high priority over the years in an effort to provide recreational and educational opportunities, and to promote the organization and its mission. By summer, 2008, 21 LTC preserves will have trails (totaling more than 30 miles) that are either constructed, or are annually maintained to some extent, by staff and volunteers. Another 10 preserves have old two-track roads or other trails that were pre-existing but are generally un-maintained.

Due to the considerable time and expense in creating and maintaining these trails, we recently developed a set of guidelines to help assess the need for, and feasibility of, creating new trails on LTC preserves. These guidelines take into account such factors as presence of interesting features, ecological sensitivity, community need, and requirements for expensive and maintenance intensive structures like bridges and boardwalks.

These guidelines indicate that several of our new preserves are good candidates for trail systems. Existing trail systems (utilizing logging roads and a railroad grade) and easy accessibility make the formal establishment of trails on the Nathan "Barry" Driggers and Rogers Family Homestead Preserves logical. The Ray Johnston Preserve in Springvale Township, Emmet County, and the Clyde and Martha Williams Preserve on Drummond Island are also well-suited for trails because of the terrain and the absence of nearby trails.



- |                     |                              |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Andreae         | 8 - McCune                   | 15 - Round Lake        |
| 2 - Birge           | 9 - Oden Island              | 16 - Seven Springs     |
| 3 - Chaboiganing    | 10 - Ransom                  | 17 - Six Mile Lake     |
| 4 - Driggers        | 11 - Raunecker               | 18 - Sleepy Hollow     |
| 5 - Goodhart Farms  | 12 - Raven Ridge             | 19 - Stutsmanville Bog |
| 6 - Ray Johnston    | 13 - Rogers Family Homestead | 20 - Susan Creek       |
| 7 - Little Sand Bay | 14 - Round Island Point      | 21 - Thorne Swift      |

We perceive a need for more trails in the Les Cheneaux area, where LTC has about 2,200 acres of preserves. However, the terrain on these preserves and the fact that many are on Islands makes trail planning more difficult. Currently, we are in the process of conducting a feasibility study for a new two mile-long trail on the Birge Preserve, partly funded by a grant from the MDEQ Coastal Management Program.

The bottom line is that we wouldn't be able to get nearly as much trail work done without the help of our volunteers. On behalf of all who enjoy these wonderful trails, thank you!

## On-Line Report Forms

Charles has made some improvements to the on-line monitoring report forms, to make them more user-friendly for you, and easier for us to process. He added drop-down menus for the county and preserve names and additional windows where you can type in details of your observations. If you're not already sending us your reports electronically, please consider switching over soon! We communicate with well over two hundred volunteers, and if we could get in touch with all of you by the same method it would greatly simplify our operations. In addition, your on-line reports can be entered directly into a spreadsheet, without us having to re-type the information. From the spreadsheet, we generate our giant "To Do List", which helps us prioritize the tasks and keep track of which preserves need attention. If you report on-line, the whole process is that much easier for us! Thanks. Monitoring report forms can be found at: [www.landtrust.org/Stewardship/stewvolunteerTABLE.htm](http://www.landtrust.org/Stewardship/stewvolunteerTABLE.htm).



a newsletter for Preserve Monitors, Trail Stewards, and Project Volunteers of the Little Traverse Conservancy



## Volunteer Profile: The Eddy and Deppa Families

Three Bears Mountain Preserve & North Branch of Boyne River (Charlevoix County)

PULLING INTO THE DRIVEWAY OF THE OLD W.A. DEPPA FARM, you are greeted with a sign that says "You are now entering God's country" and, indeed, you can feel the difference. The land that has been enjoyed by the Deppa and Eddy families for more than 50 years lies within the Boyne River Valley and includes hills that stand taller than those of the Boyne Mountain ski slopes. Today, 200 acres of that land are now permanently protected as two nature preserves (donated in 1998 by W.A. and EvaBelle Deppa) adjacent to the family homestead. Lucky for the Conservancy, this means we didn't have to search far for preserve volunteers.

"From this time of year until Thanksgiving, somebody comes up here almost every other week," explained Jim Eddy who, at 73, often serves as trail guide for local scout groups and others who want to make the hilly journey to the rustic "Three Bears" cabin that was built by his father, W.A. Deppa. It is a true family affair and Jim and Judy credit Jim's sister, Joan, for inspiring the love and caretaking of the land in all of them. Jim and Judy's son, Patrick, and son-in-law, Gary, also spend many hours during every trip up north cleaning and mowing the trails and ensuring that the preserves remain accessible for others. Jim's brother, Jerry, is another part of the monitoring crew when he visits from his Alaska home.

Natural lands that have been in families for many years hold a special place in the stories and memories of the generations, and the Deppa Farm is no different. From an unusual rock where, according to legend, Native Americans used to grind their corn to the three legged raccoon that frequents their bird feeders, the families of W.A. Deppa realize what a treasure they've had in this beautiful spot. "Our kids and grandkids have grown up exploring these woods," Jim said. "I teach each one of them that if they ever get disoriented, just stop and listen for the traffic along Thumb Lake Road and head toward that traffic sound."

But of course the enduring treasures of this special place are the two nature preserves that will be left in their natural state, forever. It is an added bonus for those of us here today that the land can be so generously cared for and interpreted by these kind families.

**Photo top right:** Judy and Jim Eddy with their son, Patrick. Along with Jim's siblings, these three plus Patrick's wife Denise, his sister Tammy, and brother-in-law Gary all serve as both Conservancy preserve monitors **and** trail stewards. **Photo right:** A bridge that connects the 40-acre North Branch of Boyne River Preserve with the Conservancy's 20-acre Big Cedar Preserve donated in 1992 by James North.

